



**Richard Fimbres**  
Councilmember  
Ward 5

**FREQUENTLY USED  
PHONE NUMBERS**

**Emergency Services**  
**TPD & TFD**  
**DIAL 911**

**Permits 791-5550**  
**Housing Assistance**  
**791-4739**

**TCC - 791-5522**

**Code Enforcement &  
Graffiti removal**  
**792-CITY (2489)**

**Trash Pick up &  
Environmental  
Services 791-3171**

**Transportation &  
Street Maintenance**  
**- 791-3154**

**Tucson Water**  
**Billing - 791-3242**  
**Public Info. - 791-4331**

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# City of Tucson

## Ward 5 Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 7

December 2011

### A LETTER FROM COUNCILMEMBER FIMBRES

#### Dear Friends:

I want to thank you all for your help and support through 2011. For the past two years, we have faced some of the worst budget cycles this City have ever faced since the Great Depression. We have had to make some very difficult decisions, but I feel these decisions were fair and didn't eliminate entire departments like other communities have.

We have had to think "outside the box" to kick start our economy. This Mayor and Council are working hard to get our citizens back to work, and to improve the quality of life for all. Our economy will start to improve in 2012, but we must keep the momentum going. Thank you again and may you all be blessed with a safe, healthy and prosperous 2012. We do live in one of the greatest cities in our nation.

Normally, this issue would be solely about the past year in review for your Councilmember and office to report back on what has been accomplished. However, another issue has arisen which requires your help and importantly, your feedback.

#### CHERRYBELL POST OFFICE PROCESSING CENTER CLOSURE THREATENED

I want to thank all of you who attended the public meeting about the potential closure of the Cherrybell Post Office processing and distribution center held December 28 at the Leo Rich Theater.

This meeting was scheduled by the United States Postal Service (USPS) at this date and time. Despite requests from both Congresswoman Giffords and Congressman Grijalva to move the date to one, not during the holiday season, but the USPS would not do so.

The USPS rented the smaller Leo Rich Theater, despite two venues, the TCC or the TCC Music Hall, bigger facilities, were available at the same time.

In addition, USPS didn't ask for a waiver for the parking fee, so people who had to park at the TCC, had to pay for parking. USPS officials said they were not going to do so, when asked by the Ward 5 Council office.

To add to it further, the USPS split the meeting into two – with little notice, with businesses and nonprofits meeting earlier and the general meeting held afterward. Even more, the USPS limited time for public comment for both meetings.

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Mark Kerr  
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Help those who are in need. Give to the Community food Bank. For more information, call 520-622-0525

Even with all these hurdles, Tucson and Southern Arizona turned out for both meetings, with close to 600 present for the general meeting, visibly surprising USPS officials with the turnout – the biggest for these hearings held across the country this year on this topic. We showed that Tucson and Southern Arizona are strongly opposed to closing the Cherrybell Post Office processing and distribution center.

Here is what is at stake for Tucson and Southern Arizona, in addition to the 300 potential jobs lost from the plant. Here are some of the many examples:

Costs to mail packages, letters or otherwise would rise dramatically. Social Security checks and other similar financial measures would be delayed. Prescriptions would be delayed. Vote-by-mail would be affected.

Government costs to mail their various items would increase. Overnight, two day or quicker delivery for First Class postage would cease. More than 23,000 of our local businesses in Tucson and Southern Arizona, who use mail order and had used Cherrybell, would have to pay more for shipping and postage.

Local mail houses would have to charge more for the services. Relocation of businesses could happen, resulting in further job losses. Potential businesses will not relocate to a city that doesn't have a processing or distribution center.

This is more than just a post office closing; it involves Tucson and Southern Arizona's livelihood. If you could not have attended this meeting, you can still comment on this, by mail. Comments will be accepted and postmarked by January 12, 2012.

Written comments may be sent to: Management, Consumer and Industry Contact, Arizona District, P.O. Box, 21628, Phoenix, Arizona 85036-1628. A decision will occur in May, but we must speak up now, for Cherrybell, Tucson and Southern Arizona.

### **YEAR IN REVIEW**

This year has been one of triumph, as well as tragedy. Our community began the year with the shootings of January 8, killing six, including Judge John Roll, Christina Taylor Green and Gabe Zimmerman, injuring 13, including our Congresswoman, Gabrielle Giffords.

Our community came together in support and prayer after this and we watched our Gabby begin to comeback from her injuries, related to the attack. President Obama came to Tucson to help us, as well as the nation heal from the tragic events of January 8.

Despite this tragic event, the work for all continued, especially for me and my office. From December 2010, through August 2011, I had the honor to serve as your Vice-Mayor, running the Council meetings on nine occasions, as well as representing our City at various functions, including the formation of the U.S.-Mexico Border Mayor's Association.

Several town halls and business forums were held by the Ward 5 office, most recently, the Tucson Means Business Forum, held at the Fred G. Acosta Job Corps Center.

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In February of this year, the construction of the Costco began and was completed in a record amount of time, 110 days. Our community Costco opened at the Bridges Project in April, bringing in a record \$740,000 in its opening day and 700 people signed up for new memberships. The Costco opening resulted in 100 new jobs being created.

Next month, the WalMart Supercenter will break ground and begin construction to be completed by the fall of 2012, resulting in 400 new jobs.

In 2011, our work on the Bridges project was nominated for a Common Ground Award by the Metropolitan Pima Alliance.

This year marked the fifth anniversary of the El Pueblo Senior Center, for which Richard Barker, Maria Cardenas and the staff are to be thanked for their wonderful service and commitment.

More new businesses opened their doors, thanks to the changes in the C of O (Certificate of Occupancy) Process brought forward by my office. A total of 70 have begun since the changes went into effect August of 2010. Thanks to these changes, and others made in the Land Use Code and other regulations by your Mayor and Council, more than \$435 million in commercial development and construction permits were taken out since August of 2010.

The City of Tucson government is using the P-Card purchasing system, saving taxpayer dollars. Since my office brought this forward, the rebate the City has received has increased by more than 100%, from \$190,000 to \$393,000 and saving additional millions through the reduction of transaction costs by using the P-Card.

Sun Tran is now putting advertising on their buses, bringing in an additional \$177,000 to go towards city programs and services.

Your Mayor and Council balanced another tough budget this year while protecting public safety. Not one police officer or firefighter was laid off.

This year, the Landmark Student Housing project was approved and will bring construction jobs, as well as \$600,000 of funds to repair the roads in the city, thanks to your Council office.

The World War II Memorial is progressing, having \$219,000 raised through contributions and grants. A site has been selected at El Presidio Plaza and the work is beginning to build the memorial.

Tucson initiated vote by mail for its city election, having the highest participation since 1999 and saving \$600,000 to boot on this year's election, thanks to this office bringing this proposal forward to Mayor and Council and receiving approval.

#### **GENERAL ELECTION**

	<b>2009</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>INCREASE</b>	<b>PCT + 0</b>
Ward 1	9272	11667	2495	+26.9%
Ward 2	20211	22025	1814	+8.9%
Ward 3	8908	10448	1540	+17.2%
Ward 4	15546	18039	2493	+16.0%
Ward 5	5853	7884	2031	+34.7%
Ward 6	14378	15294	916	+6.4%

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Vice Mayor Karin Uhlich and myself launched the effort to reopen Tucson's pools, by directing funding from two projects, the Pascua Neighborhood Center in Ward 3 and the Cell tower in Ward 5, totaling \$193,000 to go towards opening the 17 pools that were closed in 2011, to be opened in 2012.

Soon, I will be unveiling a new public-private partnership on this that could get us to our goal of opening all the pools for the summer of 2012.

APAC Pharmaceutical, Family Dollar, General Dollar, Circle K, Goodwill, opened their doors in 2011 in our Ward, resulting in 280 jobs.

Companies, such as Bruker Nano Surfaces, kept their doors open in Tucson and in Ward 5, expanding their business and work force from 70 to 90. CAID Industries, a longtime staple in our Ward, is expanding their business and adding 30 more jobs.

The Tucson-Mexico Task Force continues its wonderful work and Ward 5 helped organize the Vamos a Tucson Baseball Fiesta, drawing 12,000 people to Kino ballpark for three days of baseball, thanks to the San Diego Padres farm teams and the Mexican Pacific League.

This year marked the creation of the Global Economic Development District, something that will help Ward 5 and the rest of the City. The work on this endeavor has begun and there will be more to report in 2012.

This office has shown that Tucson Means Business and will continue to do so in 2012. But business is only part of the story. From the MLK Breakfast and March, to the neighborhood meetings, the Barrio Centro mural, bike path dedications, adopt a parks and public areas, and talks with school children, the graffiti abatement effort at Apollo Middle School, Cherry Avenue and throughout the rest of Ward 5, it is the commitment to you, our family and friends, that we work to make our Ward a better place to live, work and raise a family, even during these tough economic times.

Also, the work isn't just done by my wonderful staff of Eileen Contreras, John Ferra, Melinda Jacobs and Mark Kerr. There are constituents who are currently serving on City Boards, Committee's and Commissions, representing Ward 5.

To Eugene Edwards (Art and Community Design), Richard Corbett (Bicycle Advisory), Brett DuMont (Board of Adjustment) Cyndi Segroves (Disability Issues), Felipe Lundin (TCC), Cindy Ayala (Economic and Workforce Development Selection), Ellen Rauch (Environment Services), Mark Cage (GLBT Commission), Jeff Farkas (Greens), Carlos Lozano (Historical Commission), Delores Grayam (Human Relations), Robert Clark (Independent Audit), Imelda Cuyugan (Energy), Vickie Mesimer (Parks), Gilbert Fimbres (ParkWise), Catherine Appelgate Rex (Planning), Joaquin Murrieta (Police Advisory Review), Bob Hourscht and Robert Villamana (Rodeo Grounds), Kathleen McLaughlin (Sign Code), Jesse Lugo and Sandra Otero (Small Business), Gene Caywood and Eddie Flores (Transit Task Force), Evan Canfield (Water Advisory) and Donna Whitman (Women's Commission), my thanks for your commitment and service to the Ward 5 office, the constituents and the City of Tucson.

This year also marked the end of one era and the beginning of a new chapter in the Mayor's office. Tucson's Mayor, Bob Walkup retired this year and Jonathan Rothschild was elected to serve as our next Mayor. In the short time, Mayor Rothschild has been office, I have had the opportunity to work with him on important issues, such as the post office, and working to make Tucson a better place to live, work and raise a family, with the opening of APAC Pharmaceutical Service and the expansion of Bruker Nano. I look forward to working with our new Mayor on future projects.

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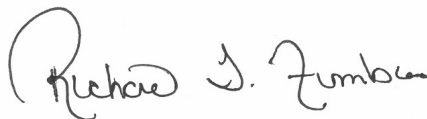
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As this year ends and 2012 approaches, I and my staff: Melinda, Eileen, John and Mark, want to wish you, your families and friends a happy, healthy and prosperous 2012.

Peace.



Richard G. Fimbres  
Your Ward Five Councilmember

### **WARD 5 ACCOMPLISHMENTS (DECEMBER 2009 TO PRESENT)**

#### **STREAMLINING THE C OF O PROCESS**

Now a health/safety inspection by Development Services is the only requirement. Seventy new businesses opened in the City of Tucson, since August 2010, when new Certificate of Occupancy rules changes implemented.

#### **RESULTS FOR BUSINESS**

With these changes, as well as the others (Land Use Code, Parking, Infill Incentive Districts, etc.) to the former City procedures, more than \$435 million in commercial and construction development permits have been taken out by Planning and Development Services (August 2010 – October 2011)

#### **LAND USE CODE**

The Ward 5 Office has supported the changes brought forward by Development Services, and the Planning and the Land Use Code Advisory Committees to the Mayor and Council.

#### **RARICK REZONG**

Ward 5 supported this rezoning in the Millville neighborhood of Rarick - a \$3 million dollar construction project and expansion.

#### **BUSINESS FORUMS HELD**

Ward 5 has held several business forums and will be hosting the Tucson Means Business forum, Nov, 30, at the Fred G. Acosta Job Corp Center. My office co hosted an MPA Brown Bag Lunch in July.

#### **TUCSON MARKETPLACE AT THE BRIDGES**

Through meeting with neighbors, developers and city staff renegotiated predevelopment agreement so that the project could go forward. With this change, the first anchor store, Costco, was built and completed in 110 days. It was built by Borderlands Construction, a Tucson firm, providing work for more than 200 local construction workers.

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## **COSTCO OPENS ITS DOORS**

Opened on April 14, 2011. Took in more than \$740,000 for first day, a record. Sold 700 new memberships on first day open. More than 100 new jobs created from this store.

## **WALMART**

A 156,000 square foot supercenter (through the Mar. 27, 2007 planning and development agreement by Mayor and Council), will be starting construction. Expected start time for construction, January/February 2012 (completion October 2012). Four hundred (400) jobs will be created from this result. Quincie Douglas, South Park, Las Vistas, Pueblo Gardens and Western Hills neighborhoods wanted a WalMart with a grocery store. Ward 5 has also asked WalMart that the use a local construction company to build their new supercenter.

## **PARK-36TH ROADWORK**

The roadwork being done at Park and the intersection of 36th is being done by the developers of the Bridges Project. A \$5 million road work and landscape project, is being done by Eagle Rock Construction of Tucson, and is employing 100 people. Expected completion – January/February 2012.

## **UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA BIOPARK**

Through intergovernmental agreements between the U of A and the City of Tucson, the U of A will be breaking ground on the Biopark in 2012. The Biopark will have retail outlets, housing (condominium) for graduate students, a biotech high school for City students, and a 300 room hotel. This is located at Kino/36th, north of the Bridges Project.

## **JWR/LANDMARK**

A 188 unit, single story, non mini dorm, student housing development (gated community) to be constructed at 22nd/Highland/Park area by JWR/Landmark Holdings. A \$20 million dollar construction project to be built with local construction companies. More than a dozen jobs to be created when housing development is completed (management/staff). Shuttle service to U of A, Biopark and to businesses in Ward 5 and South Tucson is being provided by Landmark as well.

## **CAID INDUSTRIES**

Ward 5 worked for the rezoning and expansion, approved by Mayor and Council, resulting in 30 more jobs.

## **ROAD WORK/POTHOLE REPAIR**

From the Ward 5, JWR/ Landmark Sale, the result of this project - \$585,000 in HURF (Highway User Revenue Funds) funds were available and Ward 5 directed these funds to be used to repair the roads citywide, to add to the \$240,000 from the Mayor and Council office surpluses.

Campbell/Bantam Crosswalk – Ward 5 was able to get the signal and crosswalk at Campbell/Bantam implemented and running. The Cherry Avenue Neighborhood is to be congratulated for their work on this project.



## **WARD 5 BUSINESSES BUILT, EXPANDED AND OPENED**

APAC Pharmaceutical – 160 jobs.

Bruker Nano Industries – Move and expansion – (from 70 to now 90 jobs).

Four Goodwill Stores - More than 70 jobs.

Rarick - An increase of more than 50 jobs when completed to bring firm to 74 employees.

Two Quick Trips - More than 30 jobs.

Perfection Industries - More than 20 jobs.

Costco - More than 100 jobs.

In and Out Burger - More than two dozen jobs.

Two Dollar Stores (General Dollar and Family Dollar) - More than 40 jobs.

Don Pedro's Peruvian Bistro - More than a dozen jobs.

Caremore Healthcare - More than two dozen jobs.

Circle K (Ajo/Park) - More than dozen jobs.

Baja Market opened - Eight jobs. Cora's Café – Eight jobs.

Axis Market – Eight jobs.

CAID Industries – 30 jobs.

## **HELPING EXISTING WARD 5 BUSINESSES**

Ashton Company, located in Ward 5, is building the Cushing Street Bridge, resulting in 97 Tucsonans working and with the money staying in the City of Tucson.

Ward 5 helped the Airport Inn to be able to remodel and expand their kitchen by getting TIA approval.

## **POLICY CHANGES**

Ward 5 brought forward changes to repeal the 1986 city code restricting Parks and Recreation from soliciting advertising and sponsorships.

Ward 5 brought forward changes to repealing the 2003 policy, restricting advertising on Sun Tran buses (inside/outside), to 15 out of a fleet of 244. Result - Seven buses now have advertising wraps - bringing in a total of \$177,000 for the general fund.

Ward 5 brought forward changes to repeal the previous policy of not soliciting advertising or sponsorships for the Bus Route Guide, Tickets, or any other Sun Tran Material.

Ward 5 also brought forward changes to how Sun Tran purchases materials by utilizing the P-Card (Procurement) system, a potential savings of \$330,000.

Ward 5 brought forward a proposal to repeal the \$5,000 non-refundable application fees, the real estate office charged for processing transactions for easements and temporary revocable easements.

## **OPENING POOLS**

AT&T Cell Tower, taking the rental fees, which would have gone directly into the general fund and directed it toward opening the closed pools, 17 of them. With the Ward 3 contribution from the O and M savings of the Pascua Center and this, a \$193,000 of the \$650,000 needed has been raised so far.

## **P-CARD**

Ward 5 and Ward 4 have led the effort to change how the City purchases materials by utilizing the P-Card, instead of writing checks.

### **(P-Card continued)**

To be implemented over the next two years, with a potential savings of more than \$10,000,000 dollars. (From \$92 cost per completion of a transaction to \$20 with the P-Card).

P-Card, the City of Tucson also gets a rebate for using the P-Card, which has increased 15% over this past fiscal year to \$215,000. In this current fiscal year (FY 2012), the rebate will be \$393,000, thanks to Mayor and Council actions taken in August to get more use of the P-card program.

### **VOTE BY MAIL A SUCCESS**

On April 5, when the Mayor and Council were discussing a proposal to change the hybrid system of casting ballots in a city election to an all-mail ballot process, one of the points the Ward 5 office brought up was to have more people participate in the process by casting their votes.

In addition, the question of reducing costs, through less poll workers, renting of voting equipment and locations, were other factors on why this proposal was brought forward for consideration by my office. Prior to the change in the process, the budget for election was \$1.6 million.

The vote by mail process reduced the number of election workers by close to 300 (primarily poll workers at \$114 for election), the cost of renting equipment and getting locations which were ADA compliant.

The primary election, held August 31, showed that 44,507 ballots were cast for candidates listed on the ballot for Mayor and for the Council seats for Wards 1, 2 and 4 respectively.

This was the most votes cast in a primary election since 1999, when 39,365 ballots were cast with contested primary races for both major political parties. For the general election, 85,340 people cast ballots.

In 2009, 74,168 people voted; in the last contested Mayor election prior to this year, in 2003, 77,857 people voted; and in 1999, 86,180 people voted.

But in the 1999 election, you had a contested Mayoral election, as well as a controversial water initiative on the ballot.

So how did the vote-by-mail system compare to the hybrid voting process (voting areas and the permanent early voting list (PEVL)? The numbers from the 2009 and 2011 election process show an increase in participation.

<b>GENERAL ELECTION</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>INCREASE</b>	<b>PCT +</b>
Ward 1	9272	11667	2495	+26.9%
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Ward 4	15546	18039	2493	+16.0%
Ward 5	5853	7884	2031	+34.7%
Ward 6	14378	15294	916	+6.4%

In a report dated December 2 to Mayor and Council from the City Clerk's Office, this election saved \$600,000.

These savings were realized through the elimination of traditional polling place equipment, vehicle and polling place rentals, reduction in printing costs for hybrid elections (poll worker manual, signature rosters and early ballot post-cards), and the reduction of poll workers, by close to 300.